

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowability of the subject matter of claim 6 is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pelhos et al. (U.S. 2004/0115481). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) the first and second seed layers being formed of the same composition of materials, as in the present invention.

Pelhos discloses a magnetic storage medium 38 having a first seed layer 44 and a second seed layer 46 on a substrate 40. The reference teaches that the materials for forming the first seed layer include NiFeCr, NiFe, or Ta (paragraph [0041]), and using Ru to form the second seed layer (paragraph [0046]). In other words, the composition of materials for forming the first seed layer and the second seed layer is different.

In contrast, the claimed first and second seed layers are formed of the same composition of materials in the present invention. Accordingly, for at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 are allowable over Pelhos.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pelhos in view of Fujimaki et al. (U.S. 2003/0228496). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons discussed above traversing the rejection of independent claim 1.

Similar to claim 1, claim 7 also recites that the first and second seed layers are formed of the same composition of materials. Fujimaki is not cited for disclosing this feature

of the present invention. Therefore, even if combined, the cited references still would not disclose or suggest that the first and second seed layers are formed of the same composition of materials. For this reason, claim 7 is allowable over the cited references, alone or in combination.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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